The Christian Radical

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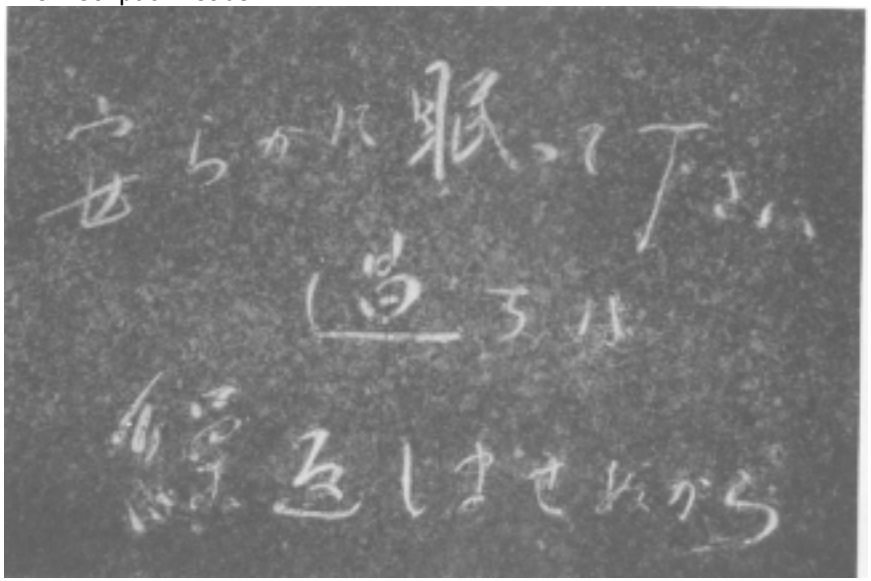
Hiroshima And Nagasaki 1945-2007

The mighty man will become tinder and his work a spark; both will burn together, with no one to quench the fire. Isaiah 1:31

Memorial Cenotaph in Hiroshima Peace Park

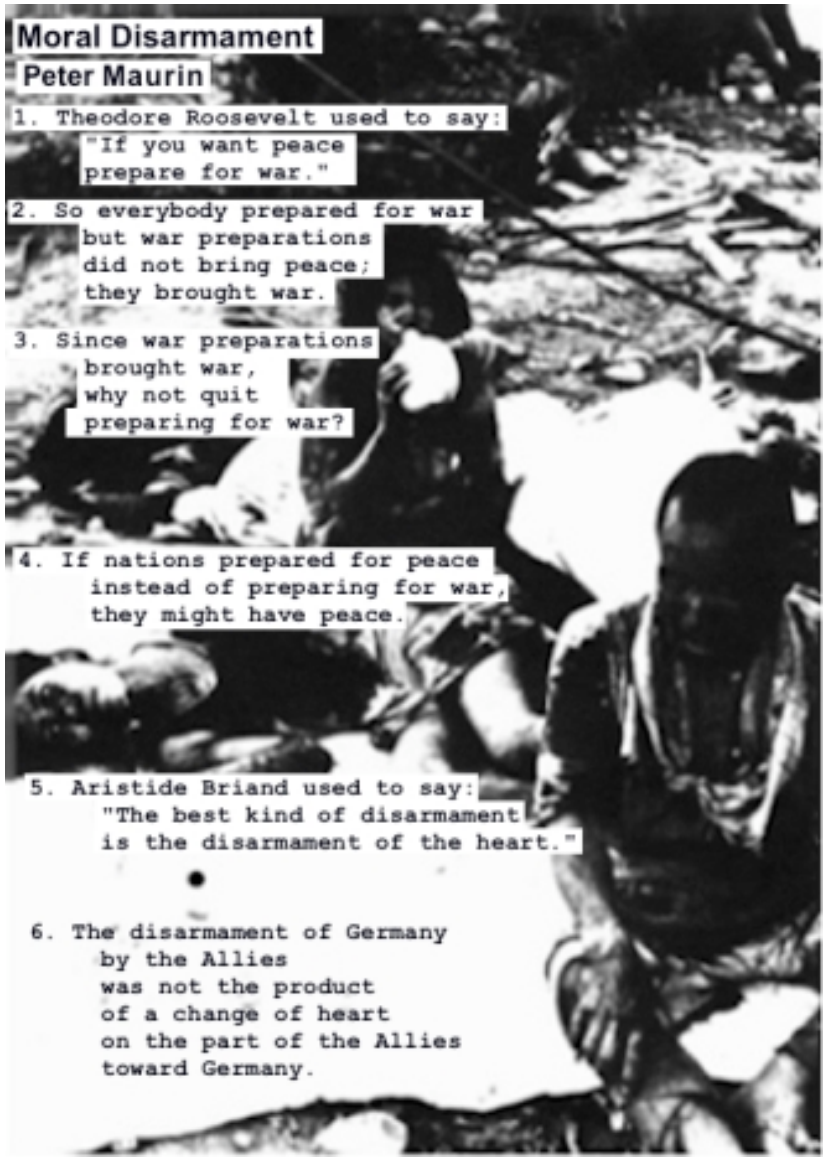
The inscription reads:

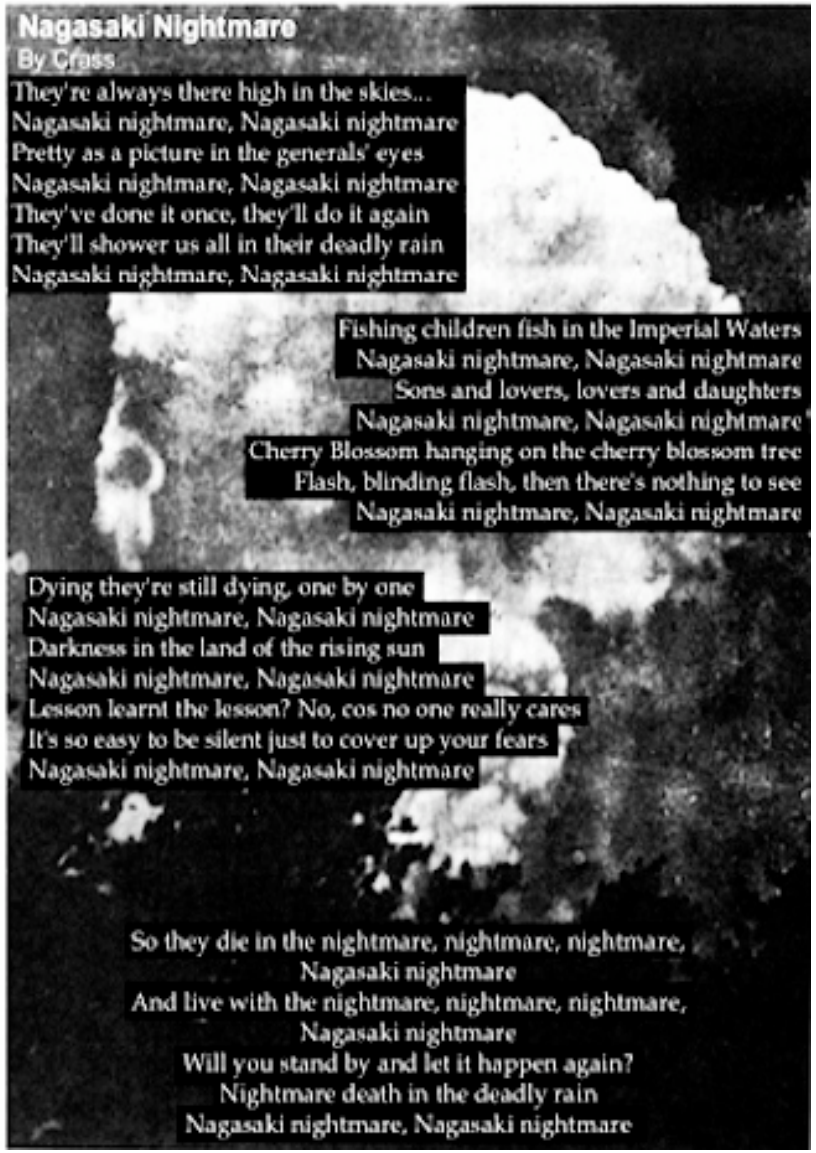


"Let all souls here rest in peace, for we shall not repeat the evil."

Editor's Note,

The Nuclear Bomb is real, and our desire to ignore the reality of the bomb and the government's willingness to use it are both grave evils; our silence echoes the words of the first murderer, Cain, when he asked God: *"Am I my brother's keeper?"* (Gen 4:10) The answer to that question is yes; we are our brothers and sisters keepers. Our brothers and sisters are not just members of our blood family, or our friends. They are the land and the oceans and the sky and everything that lives in or upon them. Our quests for material gain and political hegemony are bringing us all closer to hell on earth, a hell that could one day resemble the hypocenters of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The content of this issue is hard to look at. This was intentional. As compassionate beings we must face the reality that through our actions and inactions we are creating the conditions for our own demise. But there is a way out of hell. It is for us as individuals to begin to see ourselves in each other and then loving one another as we love ourselves. Only then will we be saved. Until that day may God have mercy on us, and help us, we will not help ourselves. --CR


Moral Disarmament
Peter Maurin
1. Theodore Roosevelt used to say:
"If you want peace
prepare for war."
2. So everybody prepared for war
but war preparations
did not bring peace;
they brought war.
3. Since war preparations
brought war,
why not quit
preparing for war?
4. If nations prepared for peace
instead of preparing for war,
they might have peace.
5. Aristide Briand used to say:
"The best kind of disarmament
is the disarmament of the heart."
6. The disarmament of Germany
by the Allies
was not the product
of a change of heart
on the part of the Allies
toward Germany.


Nagasaki Nightmare
By Cross
They're always there high in the skies...
Nagasaki nightmare, Nagasaki nightmare
Pretty as a picture in the generals' eyes
Nagasaki nightmare, Nagasaki nightmare
They've done it once, they'll do it again
They'll shower us all in their deadly rain
Nagasaki nightmare, Nagasaki nightmare
Fishing children fish in the Imperial Waters
Nagasaki nightmare, Nagasaki nightmare
Sons and lovers, lovers and daughters
Nagasaki nightmare, Nagasaki nightmare
Cherry Blossom hanging on the cherry blossom tree
Flash, blinding flash, then there's nothing to see
Nagasaki nightmare, Nagasaki nightmare
Dying they're still dying, one by one
Nagasaki nightmare, Nagasaki nightmare
Darkness in the land of the rising sun
Nagasaki nightmare, Nagasaki nightmare
Lesson learnt the lesson? No, cos no one really cares
It's so easy to be silent just to cover up your fears
Nagasaki nightmare, Nagasaki nightmare
So they die in the nightmare, nightmare, nightmare,
Nagasaki nightmare
And live with the nightmare, nightmare, nightmare,
Nagasaki nightmare
Will you stand by and let it happen again?
Nightmare death in the deadly rain
Nagasaki nightmare, Nagasaki nightmare

Live with the nightmare, nightmare, nightmare,
Nagasaki nightmare
And die in the nightmare, nightmare, nightmare,
Nagasaki nightmare
Nightmare comes in deadly rain
Nightmare, nightmare, nightmare, rain
Nagasaki nightmare, Nagasaki nightmare
Manmade power, manmade pain, Nagasaki nightmare
Deadly rain, deadly rain, Nagasaki nightmare
They'll do it again, shower us in rain
Deadly, deadly, deadly rain
Nagasaki nightmare, Nagasaki Nightmare

The Effects of Nuclear Weapons

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
Reprinted from www.cnduk.org

Introduction

Nuclear weapons have been used twice, on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. Atmospheric nuclear testing and nuclear power accidents have also contributed to our now well- documented knowledge of the effects of nuclear weapons. Modern nuclear weapons generally have much greater explosive power than those first two bombs but the effects would only differ in scale.

The effects on human beings can most easily be understood as a sequence of overlapping categories: instantaneous, near-immediate, short term and long term:

Instantaneous

The heart of a nuclear explosion reaches a temperature of several million degrees centigrade. Over a wide area the resulting heat flash literally vaporises all human tissue. At Hiroshima, within a radius of half a mile, the only remains of most of the people caught in the open were their shadows burnt into stone.

Near-immediate

Beyond this area all people caught in the open will be killed by the heat and blast waves. People inside buildings or otherwise shielded will be indirectly killed by the blast and heat effects as buildings collapse and all inflammable materials burst into flames. The immediate death rate will be over 90%.

The many individual fires combine to produce a fire storm as all the oxygen is consumed. As the heat rises, air is drawn in from the periphery at or near ground

level. This both results in lethal, hurricane force winds and perpetuates the fire as the fresh oxygen is burnt. (Such fire storms have also been produced by intense, large scale conventional bombing in cities such as Hamburg and Tokyo).

Even people in underground shelters who survive the initial heat flash will die as all the oxygen is sucked out of the atmosphere.

Outside the area of total destruction there will be a gradually increasing percentage of immediate survivors. However most of these will suffer from non-survivable burns, will be blinded, bleeding from glass splinters and will have suffered massive internal injuries. Many will be trapped in collapsed and burning buildings.

Even those with possibly survivable injuries will die since almost all rescue and medical services will have been destroyed and personnel killed.

The death rate among the seriously injured will approach 100%. Survival rates among the potential survivors will depend on the extent of rescue and medical services that can be brought in from outside. Many of the medical services needed such as specialist burns units are in strictly limited supply. The sheer scale of the casualties would overwhelm any state's medical resources even in peace time.

Most casualties would receive at best minimal, palliative treatment. The best they could hope for would be to die in as little pain as possible.

Short Term

Many survivors, either uninjured or with survivable injuries will be affected within a matter of days by radioactive fall-out.

The amount and extent of fall-out will vary according to whether the nuclear explosion was an air-burst (as at Hiroshima) or a ground-burst. While the former emphasises the heat/blast effects, the latter will throw up much larger quantities of radioactive debris into the atmosphere.

The area covered by fall-out is determined by wind speed and direction. The heavier particles of radioactive material will fall in the immediate or close vicinity. Finer particles will be wind blown over longer distances before they descend. Very fine particles may be blown very long distances before they combine with water vapour and fall as radioactive rain. (In the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear power explosion and fire in the Ukraine in 1986, radioactive rain fell over the next few days in a wide arc across Northern Europe, including Scandinavia and then Scotland, North Wales and Cumbria (North Wales is over 1000 miles from Chernobyl.)

The effects of exposure to high levels of radioactive fall-out (radiation sickness) include hair loss, bleeding from the mouth and gums, internal bleeding and haemorrhagic diarrhoea, gangrenous ulcers, vomiting, fever, delirium and terminal coma. There is no effective treatment and death follows in a matter of days.

At lower levels of exposure, while there is an increasing chance of at least short term survival, the death rate remains high. Even where long term survival is probable, pregnant women are likely to miscarry or give birth to babies with a range of disabilities.

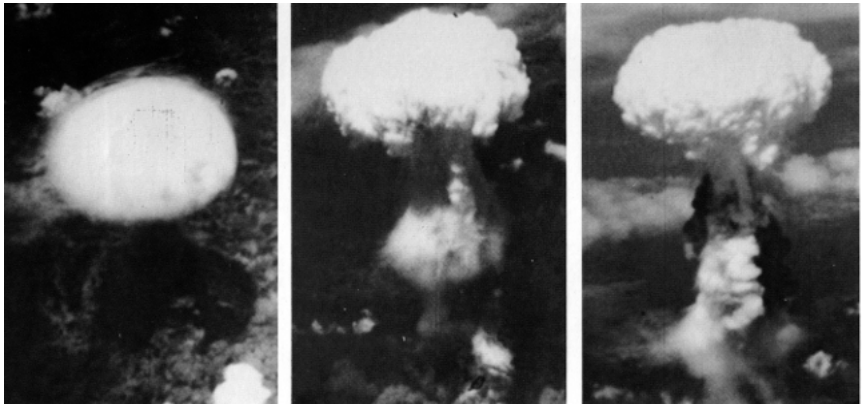
Healing from injuries is often slow, leaving distinctive scar tissue. Damage to the immune system is probable.

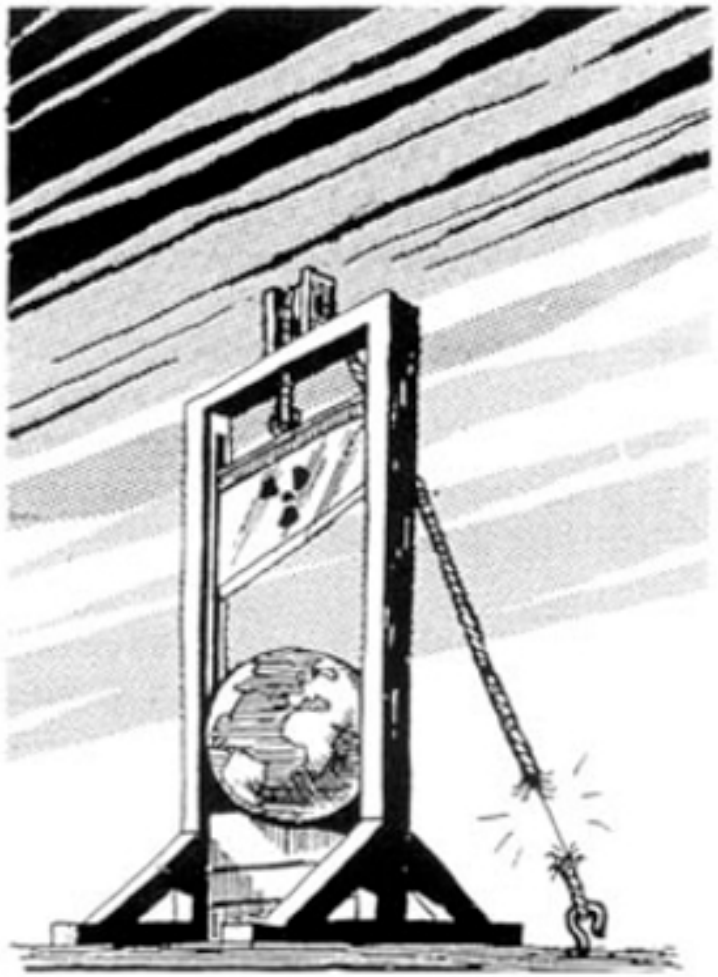
Long Term

Radiation-induced cancers will affect many survivors, often twenty or more years later. Certain cancers such as thyroid cancer in children are particularly associated with exposure to radiation. There are statistically higher than normal birth abnormalities and leukaemia rates in the children of exposed survivors.

Because of the long period between exposure and eventual cancer it is difficult to attribute a particular cancer to a particular cause. The correlation is described as epidemiological, rather as the connection between smoking and lung cancer was statistically established before the medical links had been uncovered.

Accurate estimates of long term fatalities at Hiroshima are not possible given the large scale destruction of records, population movements and a general censorship on nuclear effects by the US occupation regime. However the generally used minimum figure for immediate and short term deaths is 140,000.





Accepting nuclear weapons as the ultimate arbiter condemns the world to live under a dark cloud of perpetual anxiety.

My God, My God! Why have you forsaken me?

Reflections on the atom bomb

Chris Rooney

The 62nd anniversary of the day technology made the ovens and gas chambers of Auschwitz obsolete--the anniversary of the vaporization of Hiroshima and Nagasaki--is fast approaching, and it's my hope here to mourn this genocide, to remember it through the images in this issue and to repent.

It's so strange to think about repenting for something my mom wasn't even alive to witness. It's not something I was ever brought up to do. My family, the culture, and even the church never taught me to repent for the dead of Japan. I first saw this penitence in an old picture, on a sign held either by Dorothy Day or Ammon Hennacy. The sign read "As a Christian I repent for the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki." This desire for repentance and healing is something that I feel within me as I write this

I want to tell you about a couple of things that dawned on me this year.

Before coming back to LA I had a heated conversation with my mom about my frustration at the lack of public dissent against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It's not as though no one is protesting but it's nothing like what older activists tell us about the 60's. And too often I ask myself, where are the massive student walkouts? Where is the non-violent direct action? What happened to my parent's peace movement?

I find myself wondering why so few people I meet know about Fr. Steve Kelly and Fr. Louie Vitale, the two Catholic priests taking torture to court in Arizona. Why don't more people know about Plowshares resisters like Srs. Ardeth Platte, Carol Gilbert and Jackie Hudson; three nuns who broke onto a nuclear missile silo in Colorado to pour out their blood and hammer on it's lid? Why is it that even in peace and justice circles some people I've talked to either don't know, don't care, or occasionally are even hostile towards these protests?

I was talking about these frustrations with my mom when she said something which has stuck in my mind ever since. She told me that when she was ten years old she already knew where she would hide in her family cellar once the bombs started to fall.

I started to think about that and I couldn't stop. Imagine a ten-year-old girl living in the middle of the Canadian prairies, planning out where she might be safest when the nuclear war comes.

Now, I want you to imagine a father taking out his gun and pointing it at his child, telling her that one day he would shoot--and he didn't know when. It could be day or night, any time of the year, and she might be safer if she ducks and covers, that way the bullet—when it goes off—might not kill her; because for various reasons it's likely to go off… sooner or later.

Imagine a man doing that to his daughter every day, for years. You'd want that man put away and the child given to family members who would love and protect her and help her to grow up in a safe and friendly environment. You'd probably have some very precise adjectives to use when talking about the gun-happy father and you'd certainly wonder, even if only to yourself, what kind of father would do that to a little girl anyway? It's an excellent question to ask.

Now go online and look up some early cold war propaganda. www.archive.org has some real gems. These films and the culture they helped birth said just that "duck and cover! That's right Billy that flash means act fast!"

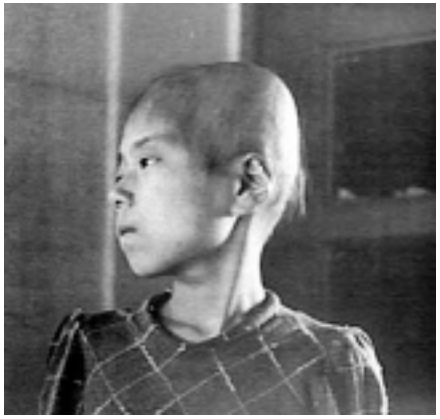
Over the decades the tools of indoctrination were refined and the propaganda became as sophisticated as the weaponry it sought to justify. I can remember growing up with movies like Red Dawn and Top Gun and Saturday morning cartoons like GI Joe, which I would watch on the sly, even though my mom had outlawed it in our household.

I can remember the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the end of the Soviet Union. And I remember things like the Gulf War and NAFTA as a backdrop over which I lived my childhood. One of my first girlfriends had an older brother serving in the first Iraq war; I lived near an army base as a child. I can remember begging my mom into letting me watch the war on TV; we all watched the war on TV eventually.

Somehow, though, I grew up thinking that once Communism was over, all of those bombs just disappeared; like ghosts, or smoke, or nightmares. I never had to learn about the horror of fallout, or practice civil defence drills in school. I didn't plan out any hiding place in the basement of my mother's house.

When I began to take an interest in current events I was sickened and terrified to learn that the American Department of Energy has plans to "re-habilitate" its nuclear arsenal. I recall the eve of the 60th anniversary of the bombing, I was reading a report about something called Complex 2030 and realising that these weapons were still active, never disarmed, never dismantled, never a thing of memory, just re-targeted towards every realistic threat. The only thing that had evaporated was my sense of security and my idea of what it meant to be alive in a post-Cold War world.

Last year on this date I was at the Jonah House community taking part in protest vigils in front of the Enola Gaye and then a few days later outside of the Pentagon. As I stood in front of the Pentagon I was thinking how that same abusive father never took his hand off the trigger, he just stopped telling us all that one-day he would shoot.



The other thing that's been on my mind recently is "non-lethal" background radiation. I watched a documentary here at the LA Catholic Worker, it was called *Bound by the Wind* and it's upsettingly relevant, though it's a couple of decades old. It tells the story of the people known as "down-winders", people who lived down wind of nuclear test sites all over the world. The movie talked about the contamination of drinking water, and soil, and breast milk, and food, and animals, and people, and whole families dying of cancer. It told about children born with terrifying mutations and it talked about the fight for a Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty and the birth of The Nevada Desert Experience.

The film ended with the phrase "We're all down-winders now" and that got me thinking also. I've had three close friends get cancer just this year, and another who died of it last year. I've long known that since the first nuclear tests there hasn't been a generation of people born without trace levels of radioactive material in their bodies. Radiation is a fact of life in this brave new world.

I was born with a double uvula—that hangey-down thing at the back of your throat—and when I was a child I thought that was how everyone's looked. Then as I grew older I would joke that I have one like that because I was born in Ontario. But thinking about background radiation and about how many people I've known--who've had physical deformities or have died of cancer--I started to ask myself, how big a part does radioactivity play in all of this?

I was born nowhere near to a nuclear test site, and I don't know anyone who was. Still, could it be that the cancers in my friends and family are one result of decades of atomic tests? Could this be why my best friend lost one of her ovaries, why I have otherwise healthy relatives who've had prostate cancer and friends with leukaemia, and throat, and breast and brain cancer? Many of us

were born into this post-Cold War world; we grew up believing the lie that the nightmare was over. Neither my friends nor I or anyone else alive has ever asked for this. I worry that I could have cancer myself and not even know it; I worry that my children might get it as well. I am worried about what kind of world I'll be leaving to them, while wondering what sort of world's been left to me.

So this brings me back to this afternoon and looking up pictures from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These days there's serious talk of America using nukes on Iran and developing new generations of "tactical" or "battlefield" warheads that could be used in future wars, North Korea is mastering the art of nuclear diplomacy, Israel has close to 200 warheads in their arsenal, India and Pakistan are invoking mutually assured destruction over Kashmir, and the list goes on. Last summer Fr. Steve Kelly said to me that we are living in the shadow of the bomb and that in one way or another everything comes back to this fact. A few months later a war resister friend of mine told me about a conversation he'd had with a World War 2 veteran. The vet had said the same thing; that once you realise the destructive power of the bomb nothing else in the world matters. The destructive potential in those weapons dwarfs everything, and the world is put in a frighteningly new perspective.

I think about these things a lot and I think about the witnesses of people like Steve Kelly, Ardeth Platte and Phil Berrigan, I pray for more people to follow their examples, and I pray that God would make us into wrenches falling into the gears of war; wooden shoes to jam up the works of genocide, so that no more children ever have to learn that the world they once thought so safe was really full of poisonous machines.

This year, even if only for a second, please think about the bomb and it's bitter, rotting fruit and then think of a world where these false gods have become mythology.

And with these things on our minds and in our hearts let's all work towards that world.

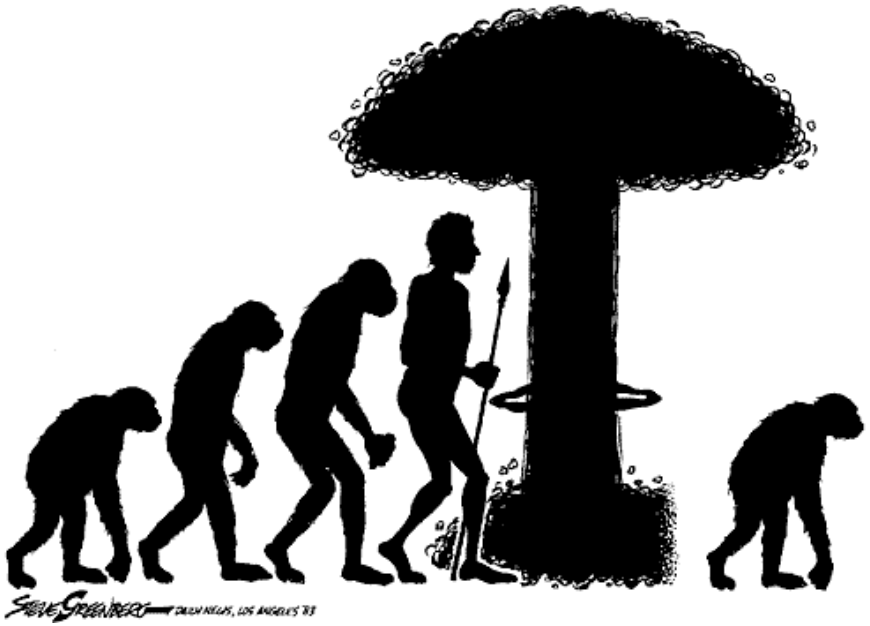
Not in My Name

Ron Zamora

The death penalty in the U.S. should be abolished. I have been speaking out & attending vigils at Raiford since the 70's. They reinstituted capital punishment & John Spinkelink was the first of many. The bottom line is the sacredness of life. Only God has the power over life & death. Humans are fallible and make mistakes. As a person of faith, I support a consistent ethic of life. I believe that all life is sacred from the time it begins until its natural end.

The death penalty promotes the idea that the life of a murderer is no longer sacred. I believe that those who are guilty, even of the most heinous crimes, are still sacred in the eyes of God!

As a supposedly civilized society, we lessen ourselves every time we execute someone. The state does it "in the name of the people of Florida". I say, "NOT IN MY NAME"

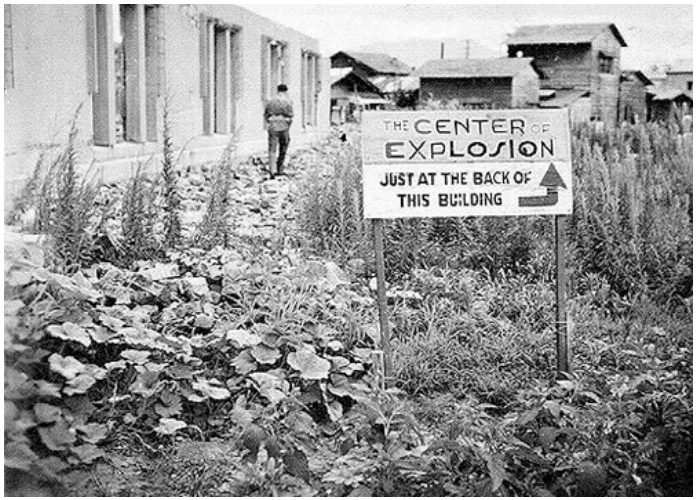


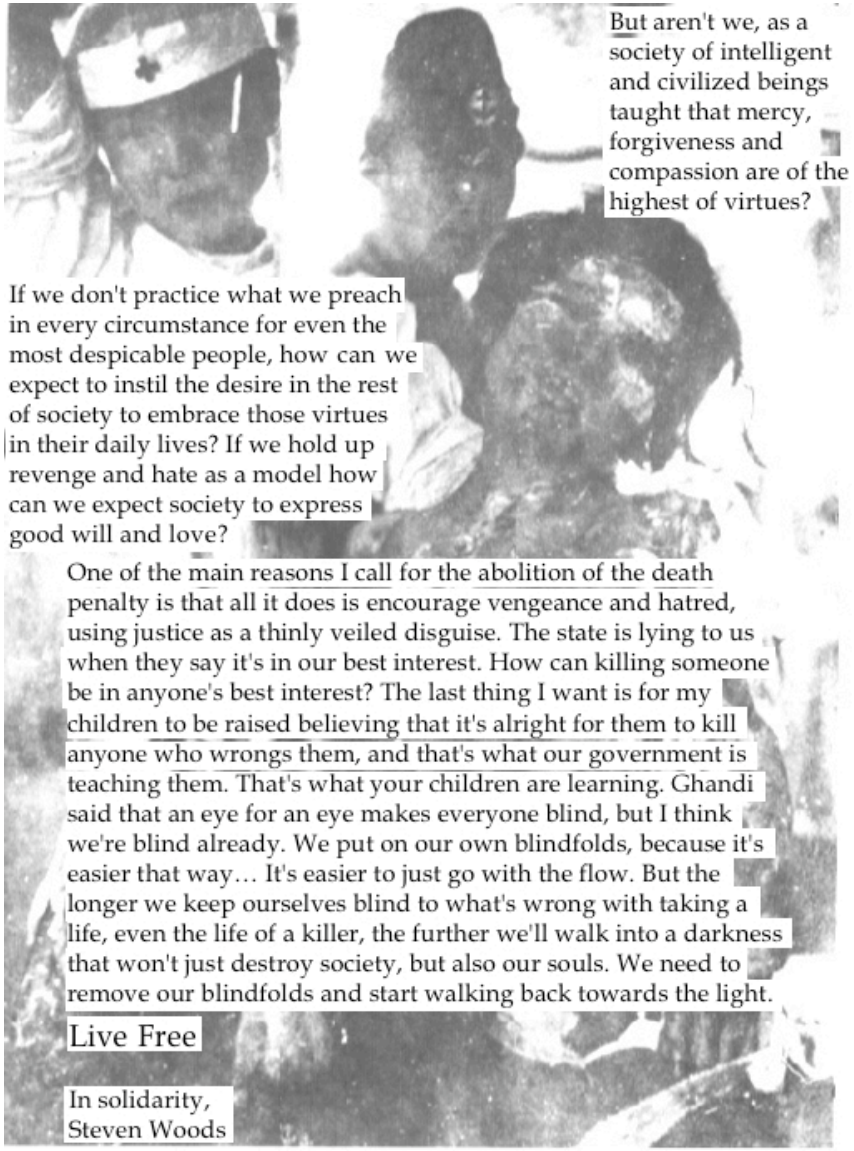
For Brian Knight

June 26, 2007

I can't fuckin' wrap my mind around it. I was just talking to him earlier this morning…Now he's on a fuckin' slab somewhere while his corpse is being splayed open and probed in the name of science. One minute a man, the next only so much meat. It's so fucked up.

Do you think killing him is going to bring back Walter and Mary Ann Werner? Will it serve society any manner whatsoever? If those questions could be answered positively maybe that would help…But they can't be. All killing Bryan did was to prove that we can't function as civilized people. How many other nations sacrifice their citizens in such a ritualistic manner, for nothing more than a notch on a politician's belt? And it's not just Bryan…He was the fourth this month, and the 18th this year in this state. Hell, he was only ONE of THREE TODAY to be strapped to a table and pumped full of poison. The other two were John Hightower of Georgia, on death row for 20 years, and Jimmy Dale Bland – who was dying of cancer and only had 6 months to live anyways. In Bland's case the prosecutors actually said "Just because he's gonna die in a few months doesn't mean we should show him mercy".




But aren't we, as a society of intelligent and civilized beings taught that mercy, forgiveness and compassion are of the highest of virtues?
If we don't practice what we preach in every circumstance for even the most despicable people, how can we expect to instil the desire in the rest of society to embrace those virtues in their daily lives? If we hold up revenge and hate as a model how can we expect society to express good will and love?
One of the main reasons I call for the abolition of the death penalty is that all it does is encourage vengeance and hatred, using justice as a thinly veiled disguise. The state is lying to us when they say it's in our best interest. How can killing someone be in anyone's best interest? The last thing I want is for my children to be raised believing that it's alright for them to kill anyone who wrongs them, and that's what our government is teaching them. That's what your children are learning. Ghandi said that an eye for an eye makes everyone blind, but I think we're blind already. We put on our own blindfolds, because it's easier that way… It's easier to just go with the flow. But the longer we keep ourselves blind to what's wrong with taking a life, even the life of a killer, the further we'll walk into a darkness that won't just destroy society, but also our souls. We need to remove our blindfolds and start walking back towards the light.
Live Free
In solidarity,
Steven Woods

The Sparrow Sings

Don Timmerman

We constantly hear stories of American soldiers killed in Iraq. These deaths are indeed tragic. However, the regular media does not inform us as to how many Iraqis or Afghanis are killed each day by American forces. It does not tell us how many Iraqis are maimed for life, orphaned, left without a means to sustain their families, displaced or forced out of their country to live elsewhere without most of their belongings, left without electricity and water for portions of each day, fearful each day that one or all of their family members will be blown off the face of the earth. The media only implies that the Iraqis are responsible for their own misfortunes and are ingrates for not praising us for all the good we are doing for them! It is believed by many Americans that they should give us most of their oil profits because we have freed them from an evil tyrant. The media seldom tells us that that evil tyrant was once supported with arms and chemicals by the US at a time when he was killing others.

The attitude of many Americans, especially those in the armed forces, is that the only people who are worthwhile and important are Americans, as if it is only a tragedy if an American is maimed for killed. It is only a tragedy if an American suffers from the lack of the basic needs of life. Many Americans see themselves as "the chosen ones." God should bless only Americans because they are the best people in the world. The rest of the world should be there only to serve American needs and desires. I guess this is why chaplains are called upon to bless US attack helicopters and the bombs they drop on people, as if God would really want this to happen!

People from Mexico should not come to our country unless they can profit Americans. Their own basic needs are not important. If they try and come to work here without expensive legal papers that they could never afford they should be shot at, imprisoned and deported back to Mexico. On the other hand, if Americans are ever shot at for invading another country the shooters are considered unjust, criminal, terrorists. Volunteers are those Americans who are paid to bomb and kill those considered "enemies" of the US. I always believed that a volunteer is someone who did something desired by another without getting paid. This is not the case for US soldiers. They are called volunteers by the media, even though they are US employees hired to kill "the enemies." Mexican farm workers, who work long hours in unbelievably difficult environments for a wage no Americans would ever work for, that we have food on our tables, are considered filchers of the US taxpayer.

Many Americans call themselves Christians, but Christ told us to love and care for all people, not just Americans, and that all people are equally important and worthy of life and happiness. God blesses all people, including the Iraqis, Afghanis and Mexicans. All life is sacred.

"Patriotic superstition is encouraged by national solemnities, festivals, monuments and pageants which encourage men (and women) to believe in the exclusive importance of their own country and the greatness of their government and their rulers, and excite unfriendliness and even hatred toward other nations."
-Leo Tolstoy, 1893

* * *

"The richer we have become materially, the poorer we have become morally and spiritually. We have learned to fly in the air like birds and swim in the sea like fish, but we have not yet learned the simple art of living together as brothers and sisters." - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

* * *

"As we come to know the seriousness of the situation, the war, the racism, the poverty in our world, we come to realize that things will not be changed simply by words or demonstrations. Rather, it's a question of living one's life in a drastically different way."
-Dorothy Day

Secrecy Shrouds Accident at Nuclear Plant

"A factory that makes uranium fuel for nuclear reactors had a spill so bad that it kept the plant closed for seven months last year and became one of only three incidents in all of 2006 serious enough for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to include in an annual report to Congress. After an investigation, the commission changed the terms of the factory's license and said that the public had 20 days to request a hearing on the changes. But no member of the public ever did. In fact, no member of the public could find out about the changes. The document describing them, including the notice of hearing rights for anyone who felt adversely affected, was stamped "official use only," meaning that it was not publicly accessible."
New York Times (7/3/07)

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Japan Shuts Units at Top Nuclear Plant After Quake

Monday 16 July 2007

Tokyo - Tokyo Electric Power Co. shut down three major generators at the world's biggest nuclear power plant after a powerful earthquake in Japan on Monday caused a brief fire in one of the units, company officials said.

TEPCO, Asia's biggest utility, added that 1.5 liters of water containing radioactive materials had leaked from a unit closed for maintenance at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant.

The contaminated water was released into the ocean and had had no effect on the environment, TEPCO said in a statement. The company had previously said there had been no radiation leaks at the plant, where reactors automatically shut down for checks.

The leak was from the shut-down No.6 unit, which has a capacity of 1.356 million kilowatts. The fire had been sparked in a transformer linked to another unit, No.3.

TEPCO could not say when the three units that had tripped offline after the quake would be restarted, but an official said it had no immediate plans to increase operations at oil- or gas-fired power plants to make up for the lost capacity.

"We have plenty of power supplies to cover needs for this week between Tuesday and Sunday," a company official said. "We'll study the situation closely to decide on our plans beyond next week."

Restarting other power units could boost oil, gas or coal consumption by Japan's power industry, which is closely watched by energy traders after maintenance scandals forced a series of nuclear shutdowns that increased use of other fuels.

The magnitude 6.8 quake struck at 10:13 a.m. (0113 GMT) on a holiday Monday in Japan, killing at least four people in the same area as a tremor three years ago that killed 65 people.

The No.3, No.4 and No.7 power generation units at the plant, located near the centre of the quake some 250 km (155 miles) northwest of Tokyo, shut down automatically. The No.3 unit alone has a capacity of 1.1 million kilowatts.

Four more units at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa, which the company says is the world's biggest such facility, were not operating as they had been shut for maintenance, TEPCO said.

The outage comes at a time when Japan's nuclear sector, which generates about a third of its power, is already operating at unusually low levels for the peak demand summer period.

Nuclear plants at the country's 10 generators operated at an average 62.4 percent in June, up from a seven-month low of 61.9 percent in May, data by the Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan showed last week.

But it was 7.5 percentage points lower than in June 2006, while overall power consumption rose to its highest on record for the month.

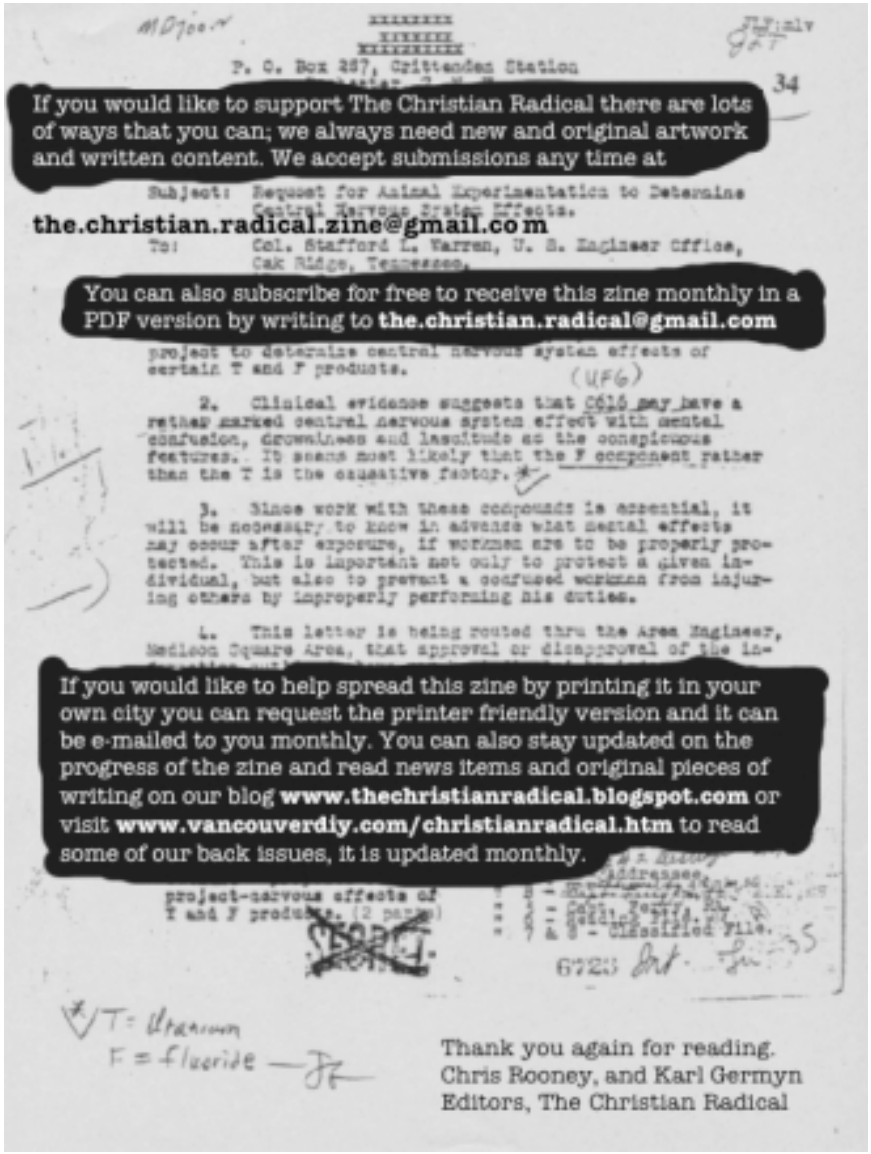
It was the weakest rate for the month of June since 2003, when the sector was in the grips of a safety scandal that forced top utility TEPCO to shut its entire fleet, causing a spike in oil consumption as back-up power plants fired up.

A new batch of safety lapses revealed this year has forced power companies to shut for additional checks this spring, dragging down utilization rates - excluding Japan Atomic Power Co. - to their lowest in over two and a half years in May.

Reuters (07/16/07)

"Opposition to nuclear energy is based on irrational fear fed by Hollywood-style fiction, the Green lobbies and the media. These fears are unjustified, and nuclear energy from its start in 1952 has proved to be the safest of all energy sources. We must stop fretting over the minute statistical risks of cancer from chemicals or radiation. Nearly one third of us will die of cancer anyway, mainly because we breathe air laden with that all pervasive carcinogen, oxygen."

--James Lovelock, Environmentalists for Nuclear Energy
The Independent (5/24/04)



P. O. Box 287, Crittenden Station

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Subject: Request for Animal Experimentation to Determine Central Nervous System Effects.

To: Col. Stafford L. Warren, U. S. Engineer Office, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

project to determine central nervous system effects of certain T and F products. (UFG)

2. Clinical evidence suggests that UF6 may have a rather marked central nervous system effect with mental confusion, drowsiness and lassitude as the conspicuous features. It seems most likely that the F component rather than the T is the causative factor.

3. Since work with these compounds is essential, it will be necessary to know in advance what mental effects may occur after exposure, if workmen are to be properly protected. This is important not only to protect a given individual, but also to prevent a confused workman from injuring others by improperly performing his duties.

4. This letter is being routed thru the Area Engineer, Madison Square Area, that approval or disapproval of the in-

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project-nervous effects of T and F products. (2 parts)

6723

T = Uranium
F = fluoride

Thank you again for reading.
Chris Rooney, and Karl Germyn
Editors, The Christian Radical

Being Hope

Kathy Kelly

Earlier this week, the American Friends Service Committee asked me to speak about finding hope in hard times as part of an interfaith service to conclude their "Eyes Wide Open" display in Chicago's Grant Park. The display arranged 3,438 soldiers' boots to commemorate U.S. military people killed in Iraq, along with life sized pictures of Iraqi civilians and a collection of numerous civilian shoes to remember hundreds of thousands of Iraqis who have been killed in Iraq since 2003. I asked the audience to join me in recalling experiences I had while imprisoned at the Pekin Federal prison for "crossing the line" at Fort Benning, Georgia.

May 1, 2004, marked the first anniversary of President Bush's "Mission Accomplished" speech aboard a U.S. aircraft carrier. I was in a prison library trying to write an article about that boastful declaration when several women prisoners urged me to hurry over to a TV room for the breaking news on CNN. "Kathy, you gotta come and see this," they said, their eyes widened with alarm. "It's awful, what's going on over there in Iraq." CNN was showing the first pictures that emerged from Abu Ghraib, images now indelibly embedded in peoples' memories all over the world: the hooded man; the pyramid; the man on a leash; the man and the dog.

The women I knew in prison could readily identify with shame and fear felt by prisoners in Abu Ghraib. They understood all too well what it meant to feel humiliated, isolated and out of control. But the tears they shed that morning were fueled by their fundamental patriotism. "What's happening to our country?" they asked.

In response, several women told the warden that they wanted to gather together on the oval track, each day, at sunrise and at sunset, for a special time of prayer. The warden agreed to this, and so began an extraordinary prayer circle.

Here are some of the prayers I recall: "I want to pray for my kids. I ask God to please look after them. And I just want to hold up the children in Iraq, because I know they're suffering a lot."

"I want to pray for my children and also for the children of the guards working in this prison."

"Lord, I pray for all of the children of all of us here, and I pray for all of the U.S. military people in Iraq who are separated from their children.

"It's so hard for parents and children to be far apart. I just want to pray for every family separated by this war and especially for the kids whose parents won't ever come home."

"I pray for parents who've lost their kids."

Over the days and weeks, the prayer circle steadily grew. By the time I left the prison, close to one hundred women were regularly gathering to pray for peace, for freedom, and for an end to war.

I've done time in maximum security and minimum security prisons in the United States, and I still don't know where they keep "the bad sisters," but I surely know something about criminality. The most dangerous criminals in the United States today are those who profit from and prolong the war in Iraq.

Nobel economist Dr. Joseph Stiglitz calculates that the war in Iraq, if it continues another eight years, will ultimately cost the U.S. economy 2.2 trillion dollars. It's shocking to think of what we've lost in dedicating this expenditure to war, rather than to domestic and foreign aid which could save millions of lives lost to hunger and illness, or, say, to renewable energy development which might save hundreds of millions from economic and environmental disasters now clearly on the horizon. Who are the criminals?

Many people argue that the troops are stabilizing conditions in Iraq. When I hear earnest concerns for Iraqi civilians, I can't help but wonder why these concerns were so absent when economic sanctions against Iraq directly contributed towards the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children under age five. Have we now a new slogan? "No Iraqi child left behind!"

A May 8th, 2007 "Save the Children" report stated that in 2005, in Iraq, 122,000 children didn't reach their fifth birthdays. Conditions can't have improved in 2007 as we learn from the World Health Organization that 80 percent of Iraqi families have home sewage facilities that contaminate their water sources, and 70 percent of families don't have regular access to clean water; as a result diarrhea and respiratory infections now account for two thirds of the deaths of children under age five. Twenty one percent of Iraqi children are now chronically malnourished. (New York Times, April 18, 2007). The report also notes that 70 percent of Iraqis who die in hospitals after violent injuries would have survived if the hospitals were adequately equipped.

From 1996 – 2003, Voices in the Wilderness delegations delivered duffel bags filled with medicines and medical supplies to Iraqi hospitals during the years when the US and the UK insisted on maintaining brutal economic sanctions against Iraq. The U.S. Treasury Department accused us of acting criminally. Recently, the New York Times noted that Chevron, the second largest U.S. oil company, paid $20 million dollars "under the table" to Saddam Hussein's government in return for obtaining lucrative contracts, all in violation of the economic sanctions. (May 8, 2007) Condoleeza Rice, then a member of Chevron's Board of Directors, chaired the corporation's Public Policy committee when Chevron initially began paying the illegal surcharges. This was the committee charged with oversight of international contracts.

During a period when the Treasury Department hauled Voices in the Wilderness into court several times and ultimately fined us $20,000 dollars, (a sum we have refused to pay), they never went after Chevron.

We don't want to see a single executive that has profited from economic and military war against Iraq go to jail. But we do want to see them rehabilitated.

The women in prison did what they could in response to feeling overwhelmed by the war in Iraq. They prayed for a kinder and saner world and in the very act of uttering prayers they helped build a more sane perspective on the horrific harms and risks incurred by ongoing war in Iraq.

When I left the Pekin prison, Sherrie, a prisoner trusted and esteemed by prisoners and guards alike, drove me to the bus station. As we passed the high security prison for men, where the median sentence length is 27 years, she placed her hand on mine. "I know you care a lot about those people over there in Iraq. At least our boys aren't over there," said Sherrie, an African American woman. "Our boys are all in there." I don't know if Sherrie's words can be backed up demographically. But over the past few years I've puzzled over her words and I think I finally understand what she meant. I think she meant that

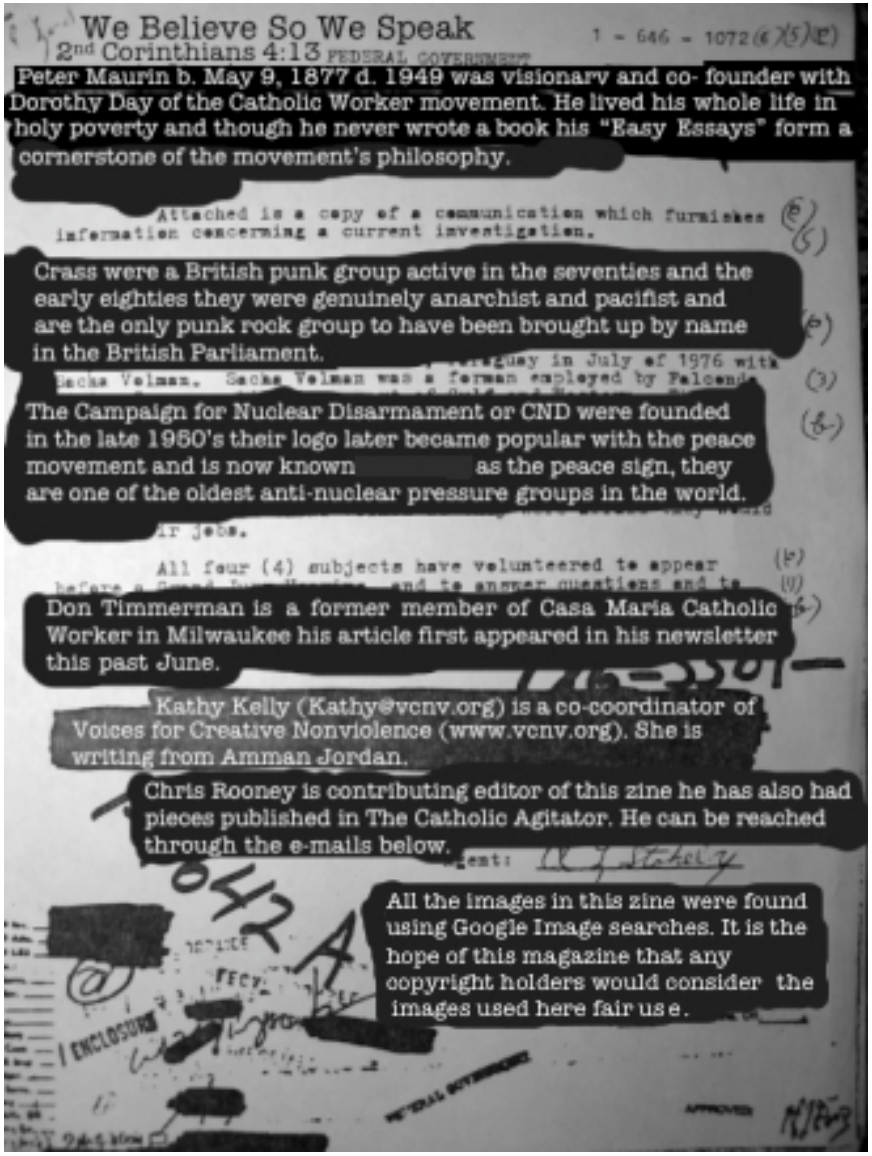
even the darkness of spending decades in a prison is preferable to the risk of killing or being killed in a foreign war to protect the criminal interests of an empire.

This summer, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate will be asked to appropriate another $145 billion dollars to pay for ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Analysis of the Department of Defense Budget Materials shows that tens of billions of dollars will be spent on Humvees, Armored Security Vehicles, Bradley vehicles, Stryker vehicles, and Abrams tanks. The earliest expected date for delivery of these items is in 2009, by which time the U.S. people are becoming quite determined that U.S. troops should be home. (see www.vcnv.org for analysis of Iraq and Afghanistan Supplemental Spending, Fiscal year 2008).

We "free" people face an urgent challenge to end U.S. government spending that will prolong the war in Iraq. Refusing to collaborate, we can and must use our freedoms; we can insist that elected representatives draw the purse strings shut and oppose any further funding for war. And along with taking a cue from the women who did what they could on the oval track at Pekin prison, we can heed Eduardo Galeano's observation of a graffiti message he once saw painted on a wall: "Let's save our pessimism for better times."

THE WORKS of MERCY FEED THE HUNGRY • CLOTHE THE NAKED • GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY • VISIT THE IMPRISIONED • CARE FOR THE SICK • BURY THE DEAD.

THE WORKS of WAR DESTROY CROPS AND LAND • SEIZE FOOD SUPPLIES • DESTROY HOMES • SCATTER FAMILIES • CONTAMINATE WATER • IMPRISON DISSENTERS • INFLICT WOUNDS • BURNS • KILL THE LIVING


We Believe So We Speak
2nd Corinthians 4:13
Peter Maurin b. May 9, 1877 d. 1949 was visionary and co- founder with Dorothy Day of the Catholic Worker movement. He lived his whole life in holy poverty and though he never wrote a book his "Easy Essays" form a cornerstone of the movement's philosophy.
Crass were a British punk group active in the seventies and the early eighties they were genuinely anarchist and pacifist and are the only punk rock group to have been brought up by name in the British Parliament.
The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament or CND were founded in the late 1960's their logo later became popular with the peace movement and is now known as the peace sign, they are one of the oldest anti-nuclear pressure groups in the world.
Don Timmerman is a former member of Casa Maria Catholic Worker in Milwaukee his article first appeared in his newsletter this past June.
Kathy Kelly (Kathy@vcnv.org) is a co-coordinator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence (www.vcnv.org). She is writing from Amman Jordan.
Chris Rooney is contributing editor of this zine he has also had pieces published in The Catholic Agitator. He can be reached through the e-mails below.
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Useful links and Resources:

-Catholic Worker Websites:
www.catholicworker.com
www.catholicworker.org
www.lacatholicworker.org
www.ca.geocities.com/vancouvercatholicworker
www.catholicworker.com/bookstore/index.html
www.cjd.org

-Radical/Progressive Christianity
www.jesusradicals.org
www.nonviolentjesus.blogspot.com
www.geezmagazine.org
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www.anglocatholicsocialism.org
www.tierra-nueva.org
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www.deathtotheworld.com
www.incommunion.org
www.catholicpeacefellowship.org

-Anti-War
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www.serve.com/nukeresister
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www.plowsharesactions.org
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-Activism
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